

(d) and (e) The Committee had observed that in view of the importance of the case, Central Bureau of Investigation should pursue the matter vigorously and bring the investigations to an early conclusion. The Committee also hoped that it would be kept apprised of the progress made in the investigation in the case in the coming days. Accordingly, Ministry of Home Affairs are monitoring the progress of the case and the Committee is being kept apprised of the progress of investigation on a regular basis.

National Handicapped Welfare Fund

961. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up National Handicapped Welfare Fund for creating services etc. for the handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the date of its setting up;

(c) whether the said fund has not been utilized properly for the last fourteen years; and

(d) the amount that is available for the purpose along with the total donation received, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Handicapped Welfare Fund was created on 11.8.83 to fulfil the following objectives:

(i) To promote voluntary sector for creating services for the handicapped for prevention, early detection of disabilities, education, training, physical and economic rehabilitation of disabled persons.

(ii) To do all other things that are incidental and conducive to the above objective.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The scheme to be funded out of National Handicapped Welfare Fund could not be financed. As such, no funds could be utilised.

Naxalite Problem

962. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :
SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the naxal activities in the State of Andhra Pradesh are increasing day by day with the result a number of innocent people have fallen victims of their activities;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and the damages caused to property and Government installations and other infrastructure during the last one year;

(c) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide two more battalions of Central Reserve Police Force for Andhra Pradesh to combat the Naxal activities in the State;

(d) if so, the total number of battalions of CRPF provided to the State at present and whether the demands of the State Government have been fully met in this regard;

(e) whether the Naxal activities are also increasing in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Orissa; and

(f) if so, whether the Union Government have suggested to these States to have a common force to check the naxalite activities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) As per available information, in Andhra Pradesh naxalite violence this year is less compared to the corresponding period of last year. However, the incidents are on the higher side when compared to the preceding half year.

(b) (i) The available information regarding the number of persons killed in the naxalite violence are as under:—

Year	No. of Persons killed
1996 (July to December)	105
1997 (Jan. to June)	115

(ii) Approximate loss/damage of property caused by the naxalites in Andhra Pradesh as per available reports is as under:—

	1996
Central Government property	Rs. 1,51,51,000/-
State Government property	Rs. 1,87,02,000/-
Private Property	Rs. 2,56,23,499/-
Total:	Rs. 5,94,76,499/-

(c) and (d) Central para military forces are made available to the State Governments to provide assistance for maintaining public order. The quantum of para-military forces deployed in a State depends upon the availability of the para military forces and overall security scenario. Accordingly, para military forces has been made available to Government of Andhra Pradesh. It is, however, not in public interest to indicate the details of the Central para military forces made available to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(e) Information available indicates that the level of naxalite violence in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh have not shown any perceptible increase.

(f) The Union Government has periodically reviewed the measures to be adopted for tackling the problem of Naxalite violence in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. At present coordinated action by the Security forces of these States is being ensured by having a Common Communication System and coordination of command in carrying out anti naxalites operations.

Nexus Between Politicians and Bureaucrats

963. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its judgement delivered on March 20, 1997 had directed the Union-Government to set up a truly independent and impartial Committee for investigation and prosecution of cases of link of politicians, bureaucrats etc. with the Mafia; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 20.3.97 has recommended that a High Level Committee be

appointed by the President of India with the advice of the Prime Minister and after consultation with the Speaker of Lok Sabha for monitoring investigations involving the kind of nexus referred to in the Vohra Committee Report. The issues and options arising out of the recommendations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to the Vohra Committee Report are engaging the attention of the Government.

Renaming of Towns

964. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals for renaming of towns/Islands/Institutions during the celebration of 50th Year of India's Independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Arrest of ISI Agents

965. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a women agent of the Pakistani intelligence agency, ISI and her husband were recently arrested on the charge of spying against India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme to prevent the recurrence of such serious incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One Zakir Ahmed Khan alias Zakir Baligh s/o Mehmood Ali, originally resident of village Uldan, PS Kharkhoda, Tehsil & District Meerut suspected to be working for Pak Intelligence Agency, was arrested by